

What is claimed is:

1. An image reading apparatus for reading indicia on two surfaces of a document automatically at a time, comprising:

a document supply tray for placing a document to be fed for reading,

document feed means for feeding the document on the document supply tray for reading,

discharge means for discharging documents after reading, and

a reading station situated between the document supply tray and the discharge means and including first reading means for reading one surface of the document, second reading means for reading the other surface of the document, transparent first guide means for reading said one surface of the document by the first reading means, second guide means formed at a side opposite to the first guide means to form together with the first guide means a first path having a predetermined gap, transparent third guide means for reading the other surface of the document by the second reading means, and fourth guide means formed at a side opposite to the third guide means to form a second path together with the third guide means, said second path having a gap smaller than said predetermined gap.

2. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first and fourth guide means have guide surfaces connected together to form a flat and continuous document guide surface.

3. An image reading apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said second guide means is formed obliquely to guide the document toward

the third guide means.

4. An image reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said second guide means includes a guide member protruding into the first path to guide the document toward the second path.

5. An image reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first reading means comprises a light source for illuminating the document, a lens for collecting light, a plurality of mirrors for directing light from the document to the lens and an image sensor for converting the light collected by the lens into electrical signals, and said second reading means comprises a light source for illuminating the document, a SELFOC lens for collecting light and an image sensor having a sensor array for converting the light collected in the lens into electrical signals.

6. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said third guide means is formed slightly away from the first guide means at a downstream side in a document transport direction.

7. An image reading apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said first guide means and said third guide means are formed at positions where simultaneous reading of the indicia on the document is possible by the first and second reading means.

8. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reading station further includes supporting means for swingingly supporting the second guide means and third transparent guide

means.

5 9. An image reading apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said second guide means and said third guide means are formed as one unit.

10. An image reading apparatus for reading indicia on two surfaces of a document automatically at a time, comprising:

first reading means for reading one surface of a document;

10 second reading means for reading the other surface of the document situated adjacent to the first reading means,

first contact glass means situated adjacent to the first reading means for reading the one surface of the document by the first reading means,

15 second contact glass means situated adjacent to the second reading means for reading the other surface of the document by the second reading means and located at a side opposite to the first contact glass means, and

20 a linear transport path for passing the document to be read by the first reading means and the second reading means defined by the first contact glass means and the second contact glass means, said transport path including a first path having a determined gap and a second path having a gap narrower than said determined gap.

25 11. An image reading apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a supply tray to place the document to be read by the first and second reading means; and a supply path to guide the document from the supply tray and formed obliquely toward the

transport path.

12. An image reading apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said
second contact glass means is formed slightly away from the first
5 contact glass means at a downstream side in a document transport
direction.

13. An image reading apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said
first contact glass means and said second contact glass means are
10 formed in positions where simultaneous reading of indicia on the
document sheet is possible by the first and second reading means.

14. An image reading apparatus according to claim 10, further
comprising a third contact glass for placing a document arranged
15 adjacent to the first contact glass means, at least one section of
said first reading means moving to read the document immovably
placed on the third contact glass.